



# 2022 SEASON RECAP



2022 SEASON PRESENTED BY



Penn Medicine  
Lancaster General Health



Children's Hospital  
of Philadelphia







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**2022 will go down as one of the Best Seasons in Barnstormers History!**

**Please enjoy the following 2022 season summary for the Barnstormers and Clipper Magazine Stadium**

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**LNP** *Thank you to our friends at LNP for this article that was written following the completion of our 2022 season.*  
Always Lancaster **Article Dated October 7th**

## **LNP “This Week’s Good Things – Barnstormers Championship Season”**

Connor Hollinger | LNP Correspondent

Leading off this week (pun intended), we offer our hearty congratulations to the Lancaster Barnstormers on their third Atlantic League championship in franchise history.

The Barnstormers concluded an amazing summer and autumn surge by sweeping the best-of-five league championship series against High Point, capped by a 6-1 victory on Sept. 30 in front of more than 5,600 boisterous fans at Clipper Magazine Stadium.

As LNP | LancasterOnline’s Mike Gross detailed, the championship represented a remarkable rebound for the franchise, which struggled through an 89-loss season in 2019, the cancellation of the 2020 Atlantic League season due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a below-.500 record in 2021.

“Our front office had worked hard and done a great job,” Michael Reynolds, the club’s general manager, told Gross. “But I’m blown away by the way this community has stayed with us.”

Indeed, Lancaster County loves its baseball team.

It’s the first time that manager Ross Peebles has guided the Barnstormers to a league title. Lancaster’s previous champions were led by skippers Tom Herr (2006) and Butch Hobson (2014).

As Gross explained, the championship is a credit to Peebles in more ways than one, as he’s also the “team builder.”

“Change is a constant, but it’s fair to say the 2022 Barnstormers had more than their share of it,” Gross wrote. “(Atlantic League) teams routinely have to churn their rosters due to player signings by major-league organizations, defections to other leagues, the usual injuries and even visa problems.”

For the Barnstormers, that meant recovering from the loss of multiple key hitters in July. But they never really missed a beat, getting ever stronger as the season headed toward Labor Day and then into autumn.

“We had to make a lot of moves for a variety of reasons,” Peebles said. “We were able to replace quality with quality. And then these guys started to love on each other and play for each other. You started to see them take off and it was just fun to watch.”

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That's another thing we enjoy so much about this team — how fun it is to watch them play and attend games at Lancaster's gem of a ballpark.

As we noted in an Aug. 10 editorial, "There is nothing like a summer evening at the ballpark, where ... you can sip a Pennsylvania brew or enjoy an ice cream cone while watching excellent baseball on the diamond and mascot Cylo's antics in the stands. Lancaster County is so fortunate to have the Barnstormers and the team's lovely, family-friendly home."

But don't just take our word for it.

In a recent column, LNP | LancasterOnline's Mickayla Miller explained the appeal of baseball games at Clipper Magazine Stadium, even for those who don't consider themselves sports fans.

"The gameplay itself is great, but it's supplemented by interactive ads, sponsored games and, of course, the Barnstormers' hype man Ed Novakoski, whose endless energy and enthusiasm add a special touch to each game," Miller wrote. "The themed nights are also a fun touch."

Beyond that, the Barnstormers organization has become an integral part of Lancaster County's philanthropy scene. Nonprofits can highlight their work at the stadium; there is the team's involvement with state Rep. Mike Sturla's annual back-to-school giveaway of backpacks and other supplies (including a Barnstormers ticket); and people can volunteer for three-hour shifts as stadium ushers in return for the Barnstormers donating to the United Way of Lancaster County program of the volunteer's choice.

Given all this, it's heartening to see the Stormers raising a third championship banner.





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**The Barnstormers experienced huge success on the field this season as we continue to be an MLB Partner League! We are proud to acknowledge the following team accomplishments from our 2022 roster:**

- The Barnstormers won their third Atlantic League Championship, defeating Southern Maryland, three games to two in the Division Series, then sweeping High Point, three games to none, in the Championship Series in front of nearly 6,000 cheering fans!
- Two members of the club were honored by the league following the season. Corner infielder Andretty Cordero was named to the league's year-end All-Star Team while second baseman Melvin Mercedes was feted as the Atlantic League's top defensive player.
- Lancaster's pitching staff led the league with 1,153 strikeouts while only allowing 990 hits (also a league best).
- Lancaster qualified for the playoffs by capturing the second half North title with a 44-21 record. It was Lancaster's first half-season division title since 2015 and the best half-season record ever compiled by a Barnstormers club.
- The Barnstormers played consecutive months at 10 games over .500 for the first time in franchise history. They went 19-9 in July and 18-8 in August. With playoffs included, the team continued the trend, going 17-7 in September.
- Lancaster had the amazing second half without three of the team's stars during the first half. First baseman Kelly Dugan and outfielder LeDarius Clark both went down with season-ending injuries early in the second half. Catcher Colton Shaver was signed by the Toronto Blue Jays, and shortly after his return from Class AAA Buffalo, sustained a hand injury that ended his season.
- At mid-season, Dugan and Shaver were both named to the league's All-Star squad.
- Dugan, Mercedes and Cordero were all named either co-Player of the Month or won the award outright (Cordero in August) during the season.
- Cordero set franchise records with 184 hits and 118 RBI during the regular season. He missed the league records by five in hits (second all-time) and by 11 in RBI (third all-time). He finished second in the batting race to former Lancaster outfielder Alejandro de Aza (.343 to .339).

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- Mercedes set another franchise record by hitting safely in 23 consecutive games, from July 3-27. The streak both started and ended against Staten Island.
- Mercedes became just the third player in team history to score more than 100 runs in a season.
- Right-hander Cameron Gann established a new franchise record for strikeouts in a season, fanning 145.
- Starters Nile Ball and Oscar De La Cruz both finished in the top ten in the league in ERA and WHIP.
- De La Cruz was a perfect 9-0 when not facing Long Island.
- Shawon Dunston, Jr. led off three straight games that he played with home runs during the final week of the season after sitting out five weeks with an injury.
- Jacob Barfield, signed by Lancaster in late July, homered in four consecutive games during the division series.
- Ariel Sandoval also joined the club around the same time and batted .356.
- For the first time ever, four different starting pitchers struck out 10 or more in a game during the season.
- Two season firsts happened during the playoffs. Until the second game of the Division Series, the Barnstormers had not won a game when they had trailed entering the final scheduled inning. They answered that, scoring four in the bottom of the ninth, three on a homer by Sandoval, and won it in the tenth on Jake Hoover's memorable walkoff blast. De La Cruz threw the only complete game of the season to clinch the Championship.
- Four members of the team had their contracts purchased during the season. Along with Shaver, pitcher Brent Teller went to Arizona, outfielder BJ Boyd went to the LA Angels, and pitcher Brooks Hall went to the New York Mets. Like Shaver, Hall returned for the stretch run.







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## Barnstormers Milestones & Accolades

- Barnstormers attendance surged in 2022 with an increase of 29% over 2021 game attendance!
- The Barnstormers were crowned the 2022 Atlantic League Champions in a three-game sweep of the High Point Rockers on Fri. Sept. 30th!
- Clipper Magazine Stadium was named the 2022 MLB Partner League Ballpark for the third consecutive year by Ballpark Digest
- The Barnstormers welcomed their 5,000,000th fan in team history on Tues. Sept. 13th
- The Barnstormers defeated the York Revolution 18 games to 14 to win the "War of the Roses" Community Cup presented by WellSpan Health
- The Barnstormers won the Atlantic League "Promotion of the Year" award for two efforts in 2022 – the "War of the Roses" promotion presented by WellSpan Health and Lebanon County Weekend presented by JBT which saw the Barnstormers renamed to the Lebanon Ironmasters for a weekend in an effort to further engage our neighbors to the north.
- Barnstormers Infielder Melvin Mercedes was crowned the Atlantic League Defensive Player of the Year
- Barnstormers Infielder Andretty Cordero was named to the Atlantic League's Post-Season All-Star Team
- The Barnstormers rank 3rd in total attendance among all MLB Partner League Teams across the country.







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## Non-Baseball Stadium Events Grow by 32% in 2022

Our goal continues to be that Clipper Magazine Stadium is an accessible community center here in Lancaster County for all types of events. We have experienced extraordinary growth in outside events that are not related to Barnstormers games this year. Due to this increase we proudly welcomed Sarah Weisenfluh to our staff, Clipper Magazine Stadium's first full-time Director of Events this past off-season.

### Here is a summary of some of the events we've hosted or are still hosting in 2022

#### Year to Date:

- American Mock Trial Association National Championship
- Creatively Lancaster's Makers Market
- Thaddeus Stevens College Graduation
- American Builders and Contractors Graduation
- PA Insight Cyber School Graduation
- LNP Job Fair
- Stanced Evolution Car Show
- Lancaster Pride
- McCaskey High School Graduation
- Leadership Lancaster Graduation
- Lancaster-Lebanon Baseball Championship
- Lezzer Lumber Vendor Event
- Lancaster-Lebanon League Championship Baseball Game
- PA College of Health Sciences Graduation
- GiGi's Playhouse 5K and Inspirational Walk
- Community Services Group 5K
- Fulton Theatre FREE Summer Preview
- Independence Day FREE Community Fireworks and On-Field Fun in partnership with Nordstrom and Truist
- Summer Kickball League sponsored by Winding Path
- Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health's Nursing Celebration
- Penn State Health Recruitment Event
- Several Baseball and Softball Camps/Clinics and Corporate Meetings
- LNP New Era Baseball Tournament
- Firecracker Baseball Tournament
- Mike Sturla Community Backpack Event
- Home Run Derby
- Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank Blood Drives
- Fall Kickball League
- United Pro Wrestling Event featuring Rob Van Dam
- OCR emPOWERED Obstacle Course Race
- Universal Athletic Club Bootcamp
- Chambers & Cocktails Event
- 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
- Lancaster County Realtor Association Non-Profit Fundraiser
- Baseball U Showcase
- Lancaster County RV Show
- American Heart Association Heart Walk
- Epilepsy Walk
- SHARE of Lancaster Annual Walk to Remember
- Private Corporate Employee Appreciation Functions
- Corporate Holiday Parties
- Christmas Spirit Drive-Thru Light Show
- Several Baseball and Softball Camps/Clinics and Corporate Meetings







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We did it! We are the 2022 Atlantic League Champions AND Clipper Magazine Stadium has been named the 2022 MLB Partner League Ballpark by Ballpark Digest for the third consecutive year! We are incredibly proud of all that we accomplished off and on the field this year. We truly believe we have the best staff in all of professional sports! Please know that we share this Championship and all of our accomplishments with you. We simply cannot have this kind of success without the support of partners like you! Thank you for your trust in us and your support of our vision of making Clipper Magazine Stadium the community center of Lancaster County. This Championship is for you, our community and every single member of Barnstormers nation!

*Thank you for  
a remarkable  
2022 season!*

Sincerely,  
Mike Reynolds

*Mike Reynolds*

General Manager

